

THE HONORABLE JOHN C. COUGHENOUR

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

PUGET SOUNDKEEPER ALLIANCE, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION AGENCY, *et al.*,

Defendants.

CASE NO. C20-0950-JCC

ORDER

This matter comes before the Court on the parties' joint status report and stipulated motion to further stay the proceedings (Dkt. No. 53).

Plaintiffs Puget Soundkeeper Alliance, the Sierra Club, the Idaho Conservation League, and Mi Familia Vota bring claims against the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers challenging two successive rules defining "waters of the United States" in the Clean Water Act. (*See generally* Dkt. No. 40.) On February 8, 2021, the Court issued an order staying this matter until May 1, 2021 based on President Biden's January 20, 2021 Executive Order. (*See generally* Dkt. No. 47.) The Court later extended the stay until July 1, 2021 because the agencies' review of the rule remained ongoing. (Dkt. No. 50.) In light of the Agencies' rulemaking announced June 9, 2021, to revise the definition of "waters of the United States," (Dkt. No. 51 at 3), the Court continued the stay until October 1, 2021. (Dkt. No. 52.)

1 The parties now request a further six-month abeyance while the Agencies continue the  
2 rulemaking process of defining “waters of the United States.” (Dkt. No. 53 at 5.) Further, the  
3 parties contend that their litigation strategy in this matter may be affected by how the Agencies  
4 and intervener defendants in a separate case respond to an order vacating and remanding the  
5 Navigable Waters Protection Rule. (*Id.* at 4–5 (citing *Pascua Yaqui Tribe v. EPA*, CV-20-00266-  
6 TUC-RM, ECF No. 99 at 11 (D. Ariz. 2021).)

7 Having thoroughly considered the motion and the relevant record, and finding good  
8 cause, the Court GRANTS the motion (Dkt. No. 53) and ORDERS:

- 9 1. This matter will remain STAYED until April 1, 2022.
- 10 2. The parties must file a joint status report and proposal to further govern proceedings  
11 on or before April 1, 2022.

12 DATED this 29th day of September 2021.

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16 John C. Coughenour  
17 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
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